

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /186 W
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P R 191040Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4167

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, IS

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON TANZANIAN BREAK WITH ISRAEL

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3502

1. IN RETROSPECT, TANZANIA'S SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS NOT ESPECIALLY SURPRISING ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE DECISION FAR FROM UNANIMOUSLY REACHED. AT LEAST ONE-THIRD TANZANIAN POPULATION IS MUSLIM. THIRTEEN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SEVERED TIES WITH ISRAEL OVER PAST TWO YEARS. TANGOV HAS LONG ARGUED THAT ISRAEL
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SHOULD RETURN TO PRE-JUNE 1967 BORDERS. COMBINATION THESE FACTORS

LED TO BREAK TODAY. ON OTHER HAND, FACT THAT IT TOOK THIS LONG TO MAKE DECISION INDICATES CONSIDERABLE HAND-WRINGING TOOK PLACE WITHIN TANGOV. ISRAEL HAS MAINTAINED RESERVOIR OF GOODWILL IN COUNTRY AS RESULT OF SUBSTANTIAL AID PROGRAM IN EARLY AND MID-SIXTIES. ISRAEL IS STILL CREDITED FOR ITS EFFORTS IN BUILDING UP TANZANIAN NATIONAL SERVICE AND FOR SUBSTANTIAL TRAINING OF TANZANIANS IT HAS PROVIDED IN ISRAEL. CURRENT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA HAS ALSO BEEN UNUSUALLY SKILLFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

2. PREMATURE PUBLIC MENTION OF BREAK BY TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO EVEN BEFORE GOI INFORMED WAS MAJOR DIPLOMATIC BLUNDER. TANGOV WAS REPORTEDLY EMBARRASSED BY THIS BREAKDOWN AND HURRIEDLY CALLED IN ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN DAR ES SALAAM FOR OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. STRONG PRO-ARAB AND ANTI-ISRAELI TENOR OF TANGOV STATEMENT (DAR ES SALAAM 3506) IS SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED IN VIEW OF CROSS CURRENTS ON THIS QUESTION.

3. TANZANIAN SEVERENCE OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS OF MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST BECAUSE IT IS FIRST ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY IN AFRICA TO SEVER TIES WITH ISRAEL SINCE UGANDA DID SO IN 1971. CARTER

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